



Council Study Session 3 Focus: Parks & Open Space

At this session Council focused on the role of parks and open space as a vital element in downtown Redmond.

A unique community asset that needs to be expanded and strengthened is the existing open space and trail along Bear Creek and the Sammamish River.

Council reviewed a map showing the location of existing pedestrian trails and connections, and a map of existing park and public destinations. They discussed the importance of developing new connections, especially by using the existing railroad right-of-way passing through the city center. They also recognized the need for gateways at each of the major points of entry to the downtown, designed to create a strong sense of place and to reduce the impression that downtown is just a place to pass through on the way to some other destination.



Stakeholders on Parks & Open Space

- Affirmed importance of pedestrian & bike connections
- Supported streetscape enhancements (sidewalks, plantings, etc.)
- Encouraged & promoted trail system



Outcomes

- ✓ Encouraged the gateways concept
- ✓ Recognized the opportunity to take advantage of the BNSF right-of-way
- ✓ Reaffirmed the potential for a Central Park at the site of the current Park & Ride lot
- ✓ Confirmed that parks and open space need to be a connected and comprehensive system

